

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Alabama

January 2012



1,133,130 children live in Alabama:
678,873 are White, non-Hispanic
347,057 are Black
63,618 are Hispanic
13,585 are Asian/Pacific Islander
7,019 are American Indian/Alaska Native
28,445 are two or more races

In Alabama:

A child is abused or neglected every 56 minutes.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 14 hours.

Alabama Ranks:*

48th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi

49th among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia

37th among states in per pupil expenditures.

The District of Columbia is best; Utah is the worst state

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in Alabama

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	310,590 (27.7%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	144,386 (12.9%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	55,845
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$215

Child Health in Alabama

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	102,711 (9.0%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	137,545
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$69,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	846,766
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	51.8%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	89.6%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	34.4%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	28.8%

Child Hunger in Alabama

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	377,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	67%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	571,297
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	24,726
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	143,768

Early Childhood Development in Alabama

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	65.4%
Number of children served by Head Start	19,755
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	26,800
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,650
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	10.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	23.7%

Education in Alabama

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$9,042
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	68.5%
unable to do math at grade level	72.7%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	74.4%
unable to do math at grade level	79.9%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	21,367

Child Welfare in Alabama

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	9,367
Number of children in foster care	5,350
Number of children adopted from foster care	606
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	65,108

Youth at Risk in Alabama

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	7.5%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	69.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	30.8%
Number of juvenile arrests	6,100
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,328
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	1.61
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	25
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	17

**This fact sheet contains the most recent data as of January 26, 2012.
For data sources and methodological notes, please visit: www.childrensdefense.org/cits.**

For more information on the state of America's children contact:

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